

# **WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

## **Minutes**

**May 20, 2014**

Members present: Ray Guenter, Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Ruth Kurien, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling  
Members absent: Connie Melo, Ted Thomas, Phillip Walker  
Staff present: Gina Marino  
Guests: James Doran, Faith Fuerst, Keren Paquette, Lisa Perrone  
Volunteer Secretary: Amy Lynn Silverman

Ray Guenter, acting chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. He introduced guests Faith Fuerst from Generations for Aging and Keren Paquette, a social worker in the West Hartford Human Service Department.

The Minutes of April 8 were approved unanimously.

### ***Chairman's Report***

There was no report due to Phil's absence.

### ***Lisa H. Perrone***

Ms. Perrone, the District Aide to Congressman John B. Larson, specializes in helping constituents with social security and health concerns. Her work is "apolitical." For example, she can help with communicating with CMS and/or the Center for Medicare Advocacy in Willimantic. Also in the office is help with foreclosure issues, immigration, veteran's affairs, visits to the Capitol or the DC office, the IRS, fraud, etc. At budget time, she works with Larson on social security legislation and the myriad of issues which may include government pension offset, notch babies, end of life counseling, upping employer contributions, long term care issues, etc. She handed out her business cards and encouraged the members and guests to contact her with their concerns.

### ***Benefits Sheet***

No report.

### ***Transportation***

Ruth Kurien reported that current expenses are covered. A business plan has been submitted to the Town for the proposed grant. Volunteer drivers are still needed.

### ***Senior Job Bank***

Jim Doran reported that finances are in good shape. There has been coverage by the West Hartford News and the West Hartford Press and the banner at the corner of Main and Farmington went up May 12. There is a one year anniversary celebration in the office on May 21. He noted that the group continues to focus on improving the recruitment and servicing of customers.

### ***Human Services Report***

Keren Paquette reported that the Rental Rebate program is active now through September. The Senior Health Fair at the West Hartford Senior Center is tomorrow. There will be a Transportation Fair on Sept. 16. The department is working on strengthening its relationship with the Department of Social Services.

***Senior Center Reports***

Gina Marino reported on the dedication of the Frieda Boardman Reisner Patio. The patio includes 3 donated benches and a picnic table. There will be a Party on the Patio 5 Wednesdays during the summer from 3 to 4:30. DDay will be observed June 4. There will be Sports Talk Breakfast with Ned Skinnon and a Lady B River cruise.

There was no Elmwood Senior Center report due to Kathleen Faroni's absence.

***New Business***

None

The next Commission meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 10am. The guest speaker is Jon Slifka, the Governor's Liaison to the Disability Community.

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lynn Silverman  
Volunteer Secretary